

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 228848

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA/BC/C:AMISAACS:MG

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

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S/S - MR. LUERS

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P 172140Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228848

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI, US, MASS, SHUM

SUBJECT: CHILEAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. AMBASSADOR HEITMANN PAID "COURTESY CALL" ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS OCTOBER 15. AFTER EXCHANGE OF PLEASANT-RIES, HEITMANN REVIEWED PERUVIAN THREAT IN RELATIVELY LOW KEY TERMS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE PERUVIANS WOULD INITIATE HOSTILITIES, BUT GOC NEVERTHELESS HAD TO BE PREPARED FOR THAT CONTINGENCY AND REQUIRED MINIMUM AIR AND ARMOR DETERRENTS. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S ACTIONS ON AID BILL. AS HE HAD TOLD SENATOR MCGEE SOME WEEKS BACK, IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR SYMBOLIC REASONS THAT CHILE RETAIN AT LEAST A VESTIGIAL FMS CREDIT COMPONENT. HE WANTED ROGERS TO KNOW HOW MUCH GOC APPRECIATED STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS' EFFORTS WITH CONGRESS ON GOC'S BEHALF.

2. ROGERS ASSURED HEITMANN THAT WE SHARED CONCERN ABOUT PERUVIAN INTENTIONS AND THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST GOC TO ACQUIRE A MINIMUM DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY, INCLUDING SUCH ITEMS AS TOW. HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, OF COURSE, CONSTITUTED IMPEDIMENT TO CONGRESSIONAL COOPERATION, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 228848

BUT GOC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANS TO RELEASE DETAINEES WAS

HELPFUL DEVELOPMENT.

3. HEITMANN EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE
WOULD SUBSIDE. IN THAT
CONTEXT, HE MAINTAINED THAT CHILE HAD BEEN "NORMAL"
SINCE APRIL-MAY 1974, AND INTIMATED THAT GOC WOULD BE
URGING INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WHOSE
OBJECTIVITY GOC RESPECTED, TO ISSUE SOON ITS FULL REPORT
ON CHILE SITUATION. KISSINGER

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